

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for supporting patient care equipment relative to a patient support, the apparatus comprising
 - an engager coupled to the patient support,
 - an equipment support to be coupled to the engager, and
 - a stand to be removably coupled to the equipment support, the stand comprising a set of legs movable between a storage position and a use position, the set of legs being in the storage position when the patient support supports the engager, the equipment support, and the stand at a first elevation, and the set of legs engaging the floor and automatically deploying from the storage position to the use position in response to the patient support lowering the engager, the equipment support, and the stand downwardly from the first elevation to a second elevation.
2. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the set of legs is configured to be suspended above the floor in the storage position when the stand is supported in a first position, and the set of legs is configured to engage the floor and move from the storage position to the use position as the stand moves from the first position to a second, floor engaging position the engager is configured to disengage from the equipment support in response to the patient support further lowering the engager downwardly from the second elevation to a third elevation.
3. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the engager comprises a support arm and a coupler positioned on a distal end of mounted on the support arm.
4. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[1]] 3, wherein the support arm is pivotably mounted on the patient support.
5. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[4]] 3, wherein the coupler of the support arm comprises a post receiver, and the equipment support comprises a post, and the post is receivable in the post receiver to couple the equipment support to the support arm.

6. (Currently amended) A system for supporting patient care equipment, the system comprising

a patient support having a base frame and an intermediate frame movable between a raised and lowered position relative to the base frame, the patient support having a head end and sides,

a support arm coupled to the intermediate frame for pivoting movement, and an equipment support configured to be mounted on the support arm, the equipment support carrying medical equipment for monitoring the patient,

wherein the equipment support can be moved between a use position at the head end of the patient support and a transport position along a selected one of the sides of the patient support, at least a portion of the support arm being situated beneath the intermediate frame when the equipment support is in the transport position.

7. (Currently amended) The system of claim 6, wherein the support arm is pivotably coupled to the intermediate frame to pivot about a generally vertical axis.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the patient support has a longitudinal axis, and the support arm is pivotable between a substantially longitudinally extending position and a substantially laterally extending position relative to the patient support.

9. (Currently amended) The system of claim 8, A system for supporting patient care equipment, the system comprising

a patient support having a base frame and an intermediate frame movable between a raised and lowered position relative to the base frame, the patient support having a head end and sides,

a support arm coupled to the intermediate frame, and
an equipment support configured to be mounted on the support arm, the
equipment support carrying medical equipment for monitoring the patient,

wherein the equipment support can be moved between a use position at the head end of the patient support and a transport position along a selected one of the sides of the patient support,

wherein the support arm is pivotably coupled to the intermediate frame,

wherein the patient support has a longitudinal axis, and the support arm is pivotable between a substantially longitudinally extending position and a substantially laterally extending position relative to the patient support, and

wherein the equipment support is configured to be supported at least partially over the patient support when the equipment support is mounted on the support arm and the support arm is in the laterally extending position.

10. (Currently amended) The system of claim 8, A system for supporting patient care equipment, the system comprising

a patient support having a base frame and an intermediate frame movable between a raised and lowered position relative to the base frame, the patient support having a head end and sides,

a support arm coupled to the intermediate frame, and
an equipment support configured to be mounted on the support arm, the
equipment support carrying medical equipment for monitoring the patient,

wherein the equipment support can be moved between a use position at the head end of the patient support and a transport position along a selected one of the sides of the patient support,

wherein the support arm is pivotably coupled to the intermediate frame,
wherein the patient support has a longitudinal axis, and the support arm is
pivotable between a substantially longitudinally extending position and a substantially laterally extending position relative to the patient support, and

wherein the support arm has a distal end that is vertically below the intermediate frame when the arm is in the laterally extending position.

11. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the equipment support includes a post and the support arm includes a post receiver for receiving the post.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the post is conical frustum shaped.

13. (Original) The system of claim 6, further comprising a stand for supporting the equipment support, the stand having collapsible legs that extend when the equipment support is lowered into its resting position on the floor and collapse into a transport position when the stand is raised off of the floor.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein each collapsible leg has a castor wheel mounted thereon.

15. (Currently amended) ~~The system of claim 13, A system for supporting patient care equipment, the system comprising~~

a patient support having a base frame and an intermediate frame movable between a raised and lowered position relative to the base frame, the patient support having a head end and sides,

a support arm coupled to the intermediate frame,

an equipment support configured to be mounted on the support arm, the equipment support carrying medical equipment for monitoring the patient, and

a stand for supporting the equipment support, the stand having collapsible legs that extend when the equipment support is lowered into its resting position on the floor and collapse into a transport position when the stand is raised off of the floor,

wherein the equipment support can be moved between a use position at the head end of the patient support and a transport position along a selected one of the sides of the patient support, and

wherein each collapsible leg has a slide pad mounted thereon.

16. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 13, wherein each collapsible leg has a joint, the joint connecting two upper leg members with a single lower leg member.

17. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the equipment support is rotatably mounted on the support arm.

18. (Original) An equipment support system comprising
a telescoping arm configured to be mounted relative to a hospital wall to extend therefrom, the arm comprising

a proximal portion having a mount end pivotably mounted relative to the wall and a second end extending away from the wall, and

a distal portion coupled to the second end of the proximal portion and configured to telescope relative to the proximal portion, and

an equipment support coupled to the distal portion and configured to support patient care equipment thereon.

19. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the proximal portion of the telescoping arm does not pivot relative to the distal portion.

20. (Original) The system of claim 18, further comprising a console configured to house the telescoping arm and the equipment support when the system is not in use.

21. - 28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus~~ A system for supporting medical equipment in a patient care ~~environment room~~, the ~~apparatus~~ system comprising an arm supported in the room for pivotable movement about a generally vertical axis,

a column coupled to the arm and having a movable portion that is movable vertically relative to the arm,

a patient support configured to support a patient, the patient support having a first post receiver,

a stand having a second post receiver, and

an equipment support having a frame for supporting medical equipment and a post extending downwardly therefrom, the equipment support being coupled to the movable portion of the column,

wherein the post is configured to be received by any one of the group comprising a patient support post receiver, a stand post receiver, a support arm post receiver, and a wall-mounted post receiver the first post receiver and the second post receiver,

wherein the arm and the patient support are movable to a first position having the post of the equipment support aligned with first post receiver such that downward vertical movement of the movable portion of the column results in the post of the equipment support being received by the first post receiver, and

wherein the arm and the stand are movable to a second position having the post of the equipment support aligned with the second post receiver such that downward vertical movement of the movable portion of the column results in the post of the equipment support being received by the second post receiver.

30. (New) The equipment support system of claim 18, further comprising a column coupled to the distal portion of the telescoping arm and the column couples the equipment support to the distal portion.

31. (New) The equipment support system of claim 30, wherein the column comprises a portion that is movable to raise and lower the equipment support.

32. (New) The system of claim 29, wherein the arm comprises a telescoping arm having a first segment and a second segment that is extendable and retractable relative to the first segment.

33. (New) The system of claim 32, wherein the column is coupled to the second segment of the telescoping arm.

34. (New) The system of claim 29, wherein the patient support has a frame, the patient support has a support arm coupled to the frame for pivoting movement, and the first post receiver is mounted on the support arm.

35. (New) The system of claim 34, wherein the support arm is pivotable about a generally vertical axis relative to the frame.

36. (New) The system of claim 29, further comprising a third post receiver supported with respect to a wall of the patient care room and wherein the arm and the patient support are movable to a third position having the post of the equipment support aligned with third post receiver such that downward vertical movement of the movable portion of the column results in the post of the equipment support being received by the third post receiver.

37. (New) The system of claim 29, further comprising a cabinet and a third post receiver coupled to a wall of the cabinet, and wherein the arm and the patient support are movable to a third position having the post of the equipment support aligned with third post receiver such that downward vertical movement of the movable portion of the column results in the post of the equipment support being received by the third post receiver.